

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 28 (newly added) An oil pan assembly comprising:

an oil pan adapted for attachment to an automotive vehicle device, the oil pan having a space for accumulating oil between a floor and an open top portion;

a filter media disposed at the open top portion of the oil pan to close the open top, the filter media having a dirty side facing upwardly and a clean side facing the floor

of the pan, and the filter media having sufficient resistance to flow of oil therethrough to retain the oil on the dirty side of the filter media, and

a suction passageway extending from the space in the oil pan to a location outside of the oil pan, the suction passageway adapted to be connected to a suction pump for pulling the oil through the filter media into the space in the pan and conveying the oil out of the pan for recirculation.

Claim 29 (newly added) The oil pan assembly of claim 28 wherein the automotive vehicle device is a transmission and the oil is transmission oil.

Claim 30 (newly added) The oil pan assembly of claim 28 wherein the automotive vehicle device is an engine and wherein the oil is lubricating oil.

Claim 31 (newly added) The oil pan assembly of claim 28 wherein the filter media is pleated filter media with peaks and valleys and wherein oil is temporarily retained in the valleys on the dirty side of the filter media until pulled through the filter media by suction applied to the suction passageway.

Claim 32 (newly added) The oil pan assembly of claim 31 wherein the peaks and valleys extend in a direction parallel to the direction of motion of the automotive vehicle

to which the oil pan is adapted to be attached.

Claim 33 (newly added) The oil pan assembly of claim 31 wherein the automotive vehicular device is a transmission and wherein the peaks and valleys extend in a direction parallel to the direction of motion of the automotive vehicle.

Claim 34 (newly added) The oil pan assembly of claim 31 wherein the automotive vehicular device is an engine and wherein the peaks and valleys extend in a direction parallel to the direction of motion of the automotive vehicle.

Claim 35 (newly added) The oil pan assembly of claim 28 wherein the filter media is separable from the pan so as to be replaceable.

Claim 36 (newly added) The oil pan assembly of claim 35 wherein the filter media is retained within a frame to provide a filter element, which filter element is separable from the oil pan so as to be replaceable.

Claim 37 (newly added) The oil pan assembly of claim 28 wherein the suction passageway is a return pipe which is part of the oil pan.